

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims replaces all prior versions, and listings of the claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A patient contacting assembly, comprising:
a patient contacting member including a first surface adapted to ~~everly~~overlie a portion of a patient and a second surface;
an adhesive disposed on the first surface and adapted to secure the first surface to a surface of such a patient;
a stem having a first end portion operatively coupled to the second surface of the patient contacting member and an exposed second end portion; and
a channel defined through the stem from the first end portion to the second end portion and defined through the patient contacting member from the second surface to the first surface, wherein the second end portion of the stem is adapted to receive a release fluid for introduction into the channel, wherein the channel communicates ~~to the~~the release fluid proximate to the first surface so as to dispense such a release fluid from the channel between the first surface and a surface of a patient to which the patient contacting member is adhered, and wherein the channel is sized and configured such that introducing the release fluid into the channel urges the first surface and the surface of the patient apart, thereby dislodging the patient contacting assembly from the patient in a pneumatic fashion, and wherein the channel includes multiple branches emanating from the channel to disperse the release fluid over an area of the first surface.
2. (Previously Presented) The patient contacting assembly according to claim 1, wherein the adhesive is a hydrogel adhesive disposed on the first surface or a surface of a patient.

Claims 3 and 4. (Cancelled).

5. (Currently Amended) The patient contacting assembly according to claim 4₁, wherein the stem is integral with the patient contacting member.

6. (Previously Presented) The patient contacting assembly according to claim 1, further comprising an electrode provided on the first surface of the patient contacting member.

7. (Previously Presented) The patient contacting assembly according to claim 1, further comprising means, associated with the patient contacting member, for applying a distending force on a surface of a patient to which the patient contacting member is adhered.

8. (Previously Presented) The patient contacting assembly according to claim 1, wherein the patient contacting member is defined, at least in part, by a substantially rigid material.

9. (Currently Amended) A patient contacting assembly comprising:
a patient contacting member including a first surface adapted to ~~everly_overlie~~ a portion of a patient and a second surface;
adhering means for securing the first surface to a surface of such a patient;
a stem having (a) a first end portion operatively coupled to the second surface of the patient contacting member and (b) an exposed second end portion; and
releasing means associated with the patient contacting member and the stem for delivering a release fluid, which is introduced into second end portion of the stem, to a location between the first surface and a surface of a patient to which the patient contacting member is adhered, wherein the release means is sized and configured such that introducing the release fluid into the stem urges the first surface and the surface of the patient apart, thereby dislodging the patient contacting assembly from the patient in a pneumatic fashion, and wherein the release means includes (i) a channel defined in the stem and (ii) a plurality of branches emanating from the channel to disperse the release fluid over an area of the first surface.

10. (Previously Presented) The patient contacting assembly according to claim 9, wherein the adhering means is a hydrogel adhesive.

11. (Previously Presented) The patient contacting assembly according to claim 9, further comprising means, associated with the patient contacting member, for applying a distending force on a surface of a patient to which the patient contacting member is adhered.

12. (Currently Amended) A method of selectively attaching a patient contacting assembly to a surface of a patient and detaching same, comprising:

providing a patient contacting member having a first surface, a second surface, and a stem operatively coupled to the second surface of the patient contacting member and extending therefrom such that an end of the stem is exposed;

providing an adhesive on the first surface, a surface of a patient to which the patient contacting assembly is to be attached, or both;

securing the patient contacting member to a surface of a patient by contacting the first surface to such a surface of ~~the~~a patient with the adhesive disposed therebetween; and

delivering a release fluid to a channel defined in the patient contacting member and the stem by introducing the release fluid into an exposed end of the stem, wherein the channel is ~~configured and arranged~~includes a plurality of branches emanating from the channel to dispense the release fluid from the channel between the first surface and a surface of a patient to which the patient contacting member is adhered, and wherein the release fluid is delivered to the channel in a manner that causes the release fluid to impart a pneumatic force on the first surface and the surface of the patient urging them part, thereby dislodging the patient contacting assembly from the patient in a pneumatic fashion.

13. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 12, wherein delivering a release fluid includes injecting a solvent adapted to reduce a bonding strength of the adhesive into the channel as the release fluid.

14. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 13, wherein the adhesive is a hydrogel adhesive, and wherein delivering a release fluid includes injecting water or a saline solution into the channel as the release fluid.

Claim 15. (Cancelled).

16. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 12, wherein delivering a release fluid includes injecting the release fluid via a syringe into the channel.